

REMARKS

Claims 11-14, 17-19, 21, 22, 27 and 28 are presented in the present application. Claims 1-9, 10, 15, 16, 20 and 23-26 have been canceled, by the present amendment or earlier. Claims 11, 18, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended by the present amendment. Claims 12, 13, 14 and 17 remain unchanged. Claims 27 and 28 are newly presented. No new matter is added by this amendment.

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Communication dated November 9, 2011, wherein the Examiner indicates that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has affirmed the rejections of independent claims 10 and 20, but reversed all objections against claims 16, 17 and 24 dependent thereon. The Examiner has indicated that the independent claims are cancelled by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, the Applicants have rewritten claims 16 and 24 as independent claims 27 and 28, respectively. Claim 17 depends from claim 12 which depends from claim 11 which depends from new claim 27. This accounts for claims 16, 17 and 24.

The remaining dependent claims that were rejected with former independent claims 10 and 20 have had their dependencies changed to the new independent claims 27 and 28, respectively, as appropriate.

Accordingly, since the applicants have complied with the requirements set forth in the Office Communication, it is respectfully asserted that the present application is in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered and that the application be allowed and passed to issue.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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